[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11315, April 17, 2019]

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY-BASED MONITORING SYSTEM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Community-Based Monitoring System Act".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It. is the policy of the" State to free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, deliver a rising standard of living, promote full employment, and make available an improved quality of life for all.

Pursuant to this policy, the State recognizes the need to adopt focused and specific measures that will ensure poverty-reduction wherein citizens have access to social protection and welfare programs that address their minimum basic needs. The State further recognizes that a system of public spending that warrants government allocation on areas and populace that are most wanting is necessary in lifting people out of poverty.

Towards this end, the State shall adopt a community-based monitoring system which generates updated and disaggregated data necessary in targeting beneficiaries, conducting more comprehensive poverty analysis and needs prioritization, designing appropriate policies and interventions, and monitoring impact over time.

This data collection system shall respect the fundamental human right of privacy, ensure data quality, and uphold data protection principles of legitimate purpose transparency, and proportionality.

SEC. 3. *Definition, of Terms.* - As used in this Act:

(a) *Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS)* refers to an organized technology-based system of collecting, processing and validating necessary disaggregated data that may be used for planning, program implementation and impact monitoring at the local level while empowering communities to participate in the process. It involves the generation of data at the local level which serves as basis in targeting households in the planning, budgeting and implementation of government programs geared towards poverty alleviation and economic development. This system merges the methodologies used in data collection activities of all national agencies, geo-tagging, and the CBMS implemented by local government units (LGUs). It entails a census of households undertaken by the LGUs with the participation of the community using accelerated poverty profiling system in the data collection, processing, mapping and analysis of data;

(b) *Geo-tagging* refers to the process of adding metadata about government projects to various media and of uploading to a web-based application. This enables the mapping of all areas in the Philippines and allows the government, the citizenry, and other stakeholders to check the progress of projects in real time;

(c) *Data* refers to the information to be generated by the CBMS which includes the compendium of localized facts, figures, and maps on the different dimensions of poverty such as health, nutrition, water, sanitation, shelter, education, income, employment, security, and participation;

(d) *Repository* refers to the agency tasked with receiving, storing, and managing socioeconomic data; and

(e) *Respondent,* refers to any citizen who participates as a data-source in the surveys conducted under the CBMS.

SEC. 4. *Data Collection.* - A CBMS is hereby established and instituted in every city and municipality as an economic and social tool towards the formulation and implementation of poverty alleviation and development programs which are specific, targeted and responsive to the basic needs of each sector of the community. The CBMS shall have the appropriate security measures for data protection.

Each city and municipality is the primary data collecting authority within its locality. For this purpose, each city and municipality shall have a statistician, whose primary function is data collection, preservation and safekeeping of the data retained at the city or municipal level. Further, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) shall create additional positions for statisticians at the provincial level to monitor and manage enumeration activities of LGUs under their jurisdiction.

SEC. 5. *Periodicity of Data Collection.* - Regular and synchronized data collection shall be conducted by every city and municipality every three (3) years. In the conduct, of data collection, the LGU shall receive financial and technical assistance from the appropriate national government agencies.

Notwithstanding the preceding paragraph, all cities and municipalities are enjoined to collect data at shorter intervals and at their own expense for purposes peculiarly useful to them.

Further, the implementing rules and regulations as provided under Section 15 of this Act may provide for a separate period for data collection depending on the needs of national government agencies whose data-collecting functions have been consolidated with the CBMS.

SEC. 6. *Lead Agency.* - The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) shall serve as the lead agency in the implementation of the CBMS. It shall have the following functions:

(a) Set standards, develop and review data collection forms utilizing as base of existing CBMS forms used by LGUs;

(b) Capacitate the cities and municipalities in the collection of poverty data at the local level through the Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute, in collaboration with state universities and colleges and in coordination with other government agencies;

(c) Conduct cross-posting as follow-up capacity building of the cities and municipalities;

(d) Monitor the data collection by cities and municipalities to ensure adherence to official concepts, definitions, and standards of poverty statistics;

(e) Act as the national repository of all poverty data collected by the cities and municipalities;

(f) Process the poverty data generated and submitted by the cities and municipalities;

(g) Generate poverty statistics at higher levels that will complement and supplement the local level data; and

(h) Perform such other functions as may be necessary or incidental to the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Information Dissemination.* - The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) is tasked to develop institutional arrangements on data-sharing. The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) is tasked to regularly disseminate information relating to activities of the CBMS. The National Statistician of the PSA is tasked to submit an annual accomplishment report to the President of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives containing collective poverty statistics generated by the CBMS, where identities of respondents, cities and municipalities are kept confidential.

SEC. 8. *Storage and* Access *of Data.* — The cities and municipalities are allowed to maintain their own CBMS database for use in local level planning and program implementation. The PSA shall receive and store all aggregated data gathered by the cities and municipalities to create a national CBMS databank of collated information. It shall undertake measures to ensure the integrity and safety of the gathered information against unnecessary leakage and access by unauthorized persons.

Provinces shall have access to their respective local and territory-specific data.

SEC. 9. *Prioritizing Social Protection Programs.* - The appropriate national government agencies shall use the data generated by the CBMS in prioritizing timely, relevant and much-needed social, protection programs of government in areas identified to have the highest incidence of poverty.

SEC. 10. *Confidentiality of Information.* - The right to privacy of every respondent remains inviolable. The citizen participating in the data collection shall be fully informed of the nature and extent of processing intended for his or her personal data. Participation in all data collection activities is purely voluntary. Notwithstanding Section 4 of this Act, respondents may refuse to answer any question or reveal any information at any point, or terminate data collection activities with no further action needed. The person conducting the data collection shall ask the respondents whether they would like to make an explicit waiver to authorize the city and municipality to disclose their identity and other relevant information about their household to the government agency which provides social protection programs for them.